

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5233

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, WA, SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: DTA POSITION

REF: USUN 3456

1. IN RESPONSE TO TAYLOR/SUMMERHAYES APPRAOCH TO MUDGE, DTA EXECUTIVE WILL MEET AT MUDGE REQUEST IN WINDHOEK TOMMOROW, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, ASSUMING MUDGE IS SUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING HIS COLLEAGUES OF THE NEED FOR A MORE POSITIVE AND HELPFUL STANCE ON THE SYG'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE EARLIEST WE CAN EXPECT ANYTHING PUBLIC ON THE DTA POSITION IS FRIDAY.

2. AS NOTED REFTTEL, UK AMBASSADOR SCOTT SAW BILLY MARAIS AND
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BEN AFRICA OF DTA YESTERDAY. HE ALSO MET WITH MUDGE THIS MORNING, BUT WE DO NOT YET HAVE A REPORT ON THAT MEETING. ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH BOTHA AND FOURIE CLAIM TO PUT ON THE DTA POSITION (PARA 6, USUN 3449), WE CONSIDERED HAVING TAYLOR REMAIN IN WINDHOEK THROUGH TOMORROW TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. WE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE MORE THAN

VERY MARGINALLY USEFUL AND THAT THE EFFORT COULD BACKFIRE.
(TAYLOR HAS ALSO CONTACTED THE LEADING CHURCHMEN AVAILABLE IN
WINDHOEK AND EXPECTS A HELPFUL STATEMENT FROM THEM.)

3. THE DTA CAN LIKELY BE BROUGHT FURTHER ALONG, AND THE DISQUIET
OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS AT LEAST PARTIALLY ALLAYED, IF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL CAN PERSUADE THEM OF ITS IMPARTIALITY. WHETHER OR NOT
THE DTA VIEW IS AS SIGNIFICANT TO THE SAG AS BOTHA AND FOURIE SAY
IT IS, WE HOPE SOME WAY CAN BE FOUND TO PERSUADE THE FRONTLINE
STATES TO AGREE TO THE APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL
OF THE DTA AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVE NAMIBIAN GROUPS (PARA 7,
USUN 3460). WE CAN BE ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE DTA AND THE
NNF WILL ASK TO BE HEARD.

4. THE RIGHT OF THE VARIOUS NAMIBIAN POLITICAL GROUPS TO
EQUAL TREATMENT IS AT THE HEART OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS
ENVISIONED FOR NAMIBIA. HOW THE SECURITY COUNCIL HANDLES THE
MATTER WILL BE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS IN
FORMING THEIR JUDGEMENT OF THE IMPARTIALITY THEY CAN EXPECT
FROM THE U.N. IN IMPLEMENTING NAMIBIA'S TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE.
FURTHER RECRIMINATION, DELAY, AND EVEN FAILURE COULD BE THE
CONSEQUENCE OF DENYING THE DTA AND OTHERS THE RIGHT TO SPEAK.

5. IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE AND TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE THAT ANY
RESPONSIBLE STATES COULD ALLOW THE NAMIBIAN SOLUTION TO BE
ENDANGERED BY A PURELY PROCEDURAL QUESTION. MOREOVER, ASKING
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THE WESTERN FIVE TO DISSUADE NAMIBIAN POLITICAL GROUPS FROM
SEEKING TO EXERCISE WHAT WE CONCEDE IS THEIR RIGHT IS TANTAMOUNT
TO DENYING THAT RIGHT AND THEREFORE EQUALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

6. IF THE FRONTLINE STATES CAN BRING THEMSELVES QUIETLY TO
ACQUIESCE IN THE APPEARANCE OF NAMIBIAN GROUPS ASKING TO BE HEARD,
SUCH DEMONSTRATION OF IMPARTIALITY WILL FAVOR SUCCESSFUL
COMMENCEMENT AND EXECUTION OF THE TRANSITION PROCESS BY REMOVING
SOME OF THE BASIS FOR THE RESERVATIONS OF THE DTA AND DENYING
TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS A PRETEXT FOR BAULKING.
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